

Ohio House Health Committee
Testimony of June Gauss
Sub. H.B. 248
May 25, 2021

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and members of the House Health Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you today regarding vaccination choice, vaccine status disclosure, and the protection for individuals to make this informed medical decision without coercion as provided in Substitute House Bill 248.

My name is June Gauss and I am an Ohio resident and have worked in the engineering field for nineteen (19) years. I was notified by my employer that they were “highly recommending that all employees get a COVID 19 vaccination to protect all coworkers and the employee”. They subsequently stated that “they are studying a proposed policy of requiring all employees to be vaccinated”. Although my employer has not provided any additional information on such future policy to date, I have deemed it necessary to speak up about this concerning potential requirement.

The medical decision of receiving a vaccination is an individual’s own privately determined decision. There are many reasons why an individual may choose to be or not to be vaccinated for a certain disease. Individuals have the right to think freely for themselves. The individual has the right to create his/her own decision matrix regarding level of risk, vaccine ingredients, thorough and rigorous testing, safety data, personal health condition, religious or personal convictions, etc. and direct their own health care decisions. This decision should be free from coercion, penalty or requirement. It should also be and remain private information.

An individual should not be denied service, participation or benefit, be segregated from, discriminated against or required to be tested for a contagion or immunity to a specific disease as a result of choosing not to disclose or receive a vaccination.

Lastly, I am seeing in our current climate that one’s certain vaccination status is being used as a vehicle to attack the liberty of an individual over a group, our freedom of thought i.e. critical thinking and our freedom of medical choice. Our Declaration of Independence states “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by the Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” It also declares that we can each care for ourselves. Substitute House Bill 248 protects the individuals’ freedom of thought and freedom of choice concerning vaccinations.

I respectfully ask that you support Substitute House Bill 248.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today. I would be glad to answer any questions you may have.